

Dear All,

Tonight's Study Service is a Bible Study on JOHN 8: JESUS LIGHT OF THE WORLD. John 8 appears separated from John 7 by the story of the woman taken in adultery; but we should read straight from John 7.52 to John 8.12, missing out the beautiful story to read it separately as a later insertion, for John 7 & 8 both have their setting in the feast of tabernacles & need to be understood together out of what happened in it.

John 8 continues the main theme of 7 about the identity of Jesus & his relation to the Father. Indeed, John 8 deepens the controversy, bringing the clash between the Jewish authorities and Jesus to a final head in his majestic, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am'.

What is new in John 8 is the metaphor of light. In the bible, light and life go together as the gift of God. John 7 is about Jesus as the life-giving water of life. John 8 is about Jesus as the light of the world. The light of his word reveals the truth & sets people free (8.31-32), but a world in darkness cannot hear this word (8.43) until Jesus is lifted up on the Cross and sends his Spirit to open people's ears & hearts.

The feast of tabernacles involved remembering the 40 years in the desert, led by light of the pillar of fire. At the feast, the lighting of a massive Golden Candlestick in the Court of the Women lit up the whole temple area & was the dramatic context for Jesus: 'I am the light of the world'.

7-8.30pm by Zoom meet (details on request), with Jamie Sutherland leading our bible study tonight.

Best wishes - Bob